

Indiana Prepares

Pandemic Influenza State Summit

Pandemic Influenza Arrives in Indiana

A student at Purdue University returned from a mission trip to Indonesia and had a welcome home party at his church. The next day he reported to the Student Health Center complaining of severe cough and sore muscles. His temperature is 102°F and the nurse notices increasingly labored breathing. The physician orders immediate transfer of the patient by ambulance to Lafayette Home hospital where he is at once put on a ventilator. Portable chest x-ray is ordered as well as extensive blood work. The State Department of Health Epidemiology Team determines that he meets the case definition for the State to accept the lab specimen to test for potential infection.

The Tippecanoe County Health Department is notified and the Public Health Nurse begins the investigation. By the next morning, all 14 of the students who attended the welcome home party report to the Student Health Center with similar respiratory symptoms. Two days later, both Home Hospital and St. Elizabeth Hospital report significant increases in patients with flu like symptoms in their Emergency Departments.

The ISDH laboratory reports that the initial student tests positive for H5N1 virus. That patient has now died.

Word has gotten out to the press about the increase in influenza cases in Lafayette. All local health departments in the state are inundated with telephone calls worried about the arrival of “bird flu” in Indiana. People begin to rush to the grocery stores to stock up on bread, milk, and other staples. Physician offices are flooded with patients coming in wanting prescriptions for antiviral medication. Attendance at schools has dropped off because parents are afraid to let their children out of the house. School superintendents are contemplating closing schools.

HANDOUT #1

At the same time, people in Richmond, Jasper, Plymouth, Chicago, and Cincinnati are becoming ill with very similar influenza like symptoms. Hospitals in all five of those cities are rapidly filling up with patients needing ventilator support for breathing.

People hear there is some medication to combat the virus but it is not available to everyone. Concerned individuals have begun to be disruptive at hospitals and health departments because there is no medication for their families and hospital beds are full.

Because hospitals are at capacity, employees are stressed from overwork.

Businesses report a shortage of workers because they are either home ill with influenza, home taking care of ill family members, or afraid to go to work. For the same reasons, there is a shortage of customers at retail locations. Factories are having difficulty maintaining production because the delivery of supplies has decreased.

Animal shelters are reporting a large number of cats being dropped off because of rumors that a cat has died from “bird flu” in Jefferson County. People are afraid their cat will get sick and pass it on to members of the household. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the Board of Animal Health (BOAH) have received repeated telephone calls from people worried about their pet birds.

At the end of two weeks, 10% of the population in Indiana is ill with the H5N1 pandemic influenza strain and public health professionals are saying that based on reports from Indonesia, it is anticipated that 30% of the population in Indiana will be ill in another two weeks. Hospitals throughout the state have reached capacity. Illinois and Ohio report similar conditions. The State Health Commissioner has asked the Governor to declare a state of emergency.

HANDOUT #2

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY CONSIDERATION

Goal: To engage participants in exploring strategies to respond to a Pandemic Influenza Outbreak and to identify their personal and organizational strengths and weaknesses, and resources needed to implement the strategies.

As an individual, what strategies would you initiate to keep you and your family safe? How will you maintain the *essential* activities in the event of such an outbreak?

To implement these strategies: 1) What assets do you have? 2) What challenges might you face? 3) What resources (people, materials, dollars) might you require to implement these strategies?

Note: For the purpose of this activity, asterisk (*) what you believe to be the three (3) most important strategies from your list, and complete the remaining columns for only those three.

HANDOUT #3

ORGANIZATION CONSIDERATIONS

Goal: To engage participants in exploring strategies to respond to a Pandemic Influenza Outbreak and to identify their personal and organizational strengths and weaknesses, and resources needed to implement the strategies.

As an organization, what strategies would you initiate to maintain a safe environment while continuing to deliver *essential* services in the event of such an outbreak?

To implement these strategies: 1) What assets does your organization have? 2) What challenges might your organization face? 3) What resources (people, materials, dollars) might your organization require to implement these strategies?

Note: For the purpose of this activity, asterisk (*) what you believe to be the three (3) most important strategies from your list, and complete the remaining columns for only those three.

HANDOUT #4

To Be Returned to Facilitator

Organizational Strategies and Resources Reporting Form

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